

# *The* West Gazette



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The Student Voice of Hazelwood West High School

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**GIRLS SWIM TEAM  
ALLOWS NO SLACKERS**

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# Hard Work Pays Off for Dance Team

**T**raveling to and competing in a state championship can bring athletes to their knees. The Pridettes went through all this on February 28 as they brought their three-routine performance to Kansas City.

They went into the championship confidently. "I think we will take it all," predicted senior captain Lisa Wojciechowski shortly before the competition.

"We all worked real hard and we deserve first," senior co-captain Mandy Billington said.

Mandy and Lisa's wishes,

along with the rest of the Pridette squad's, finally came true as they did just what they thought they would do.

The Pridettes took first in Novelty, second in Jazz with a ScatMan routine, and fifth in Mix. They also were awarded more points than any other team with three routines.

Hard work was credited for the team's success. "Our coach, Michelle Bibby, pushed us real hard," said junior Becky Moyer.

With all their hard work, they brought Hazelwood West



**Who Needs Sleep?...** Freshmen Pridettes ("fishies") celebrate after scoring big at state.

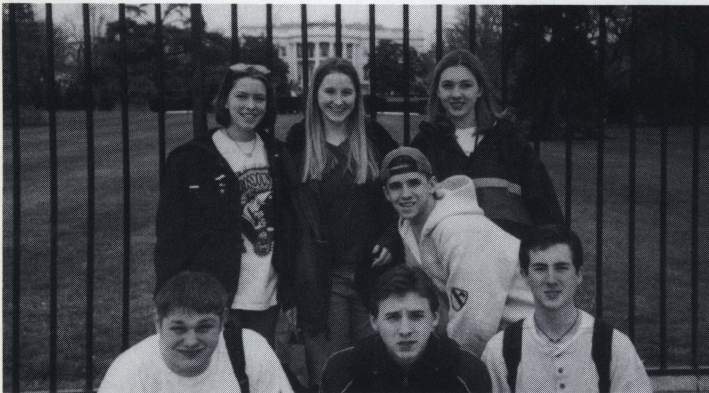
its first-ever dancing championship.

Junior captain Desiree Blanc said it all in just a few short

words: "We came together and danced like one."

By Terry Brennan  
and Tony Reis

# Students Get 'Close-Up' View of DC



**Executive Decision...** A group of Hazelwood West students pause for a moment in front of the White House to decide where to go next for their free day. This was part of their tour of Washington DC for the Close-Up program.

# Pops 'n Popcorn Entertains

**T**he Pops n' Popcorn concert has been going on for nearly as long as the school's existence. It was held March 18 from 7:00-8:30 p.m. in the auditorium. This fundraiser for the PTA consists of 3 groups: String Orchestra directed by Mrs. Shannon Abney, Jazz Band led by Jeff Pottinger, and Choraleers directed by Mr. Kevin Koontz.

A few of the songs the

Choraleers did were *Hit Me With h Hot Note*, *Lazy Kinda Blues* and *Swing the Mood*. Choraleer Kim Boucher, senior, was especially excited about the medley from *Grease*.

The cost was only a few dollars, which was a small price to pay for an endless supply of popcorn to eat, soda to drink, and an hour and a half of entertainment.

By Rachel Traversay

**S**pending the week of February 22-28 in the nation's capital was something 33 of West's 10, 11, and 12 graders had the opportunity to do last month.

This year's Close Up program was packed full of plans from morning to night with many activities for these teens.

"We were kept occupied from 7 in the morning until 11 that night," said senior Angela Nord.

The group of students attending the trip left Sunday morning with chaperones Mr. Harry McCown and Mr. Brad Jones, who had taken Mr. John Stevenson's place.

Mr. Stevenson had helped plan the trip but decided to stay home with his wife who was expecting their baby at anytime. Mrs. Stevenson had the baby on February 26.

During the day, the students went to seminars with national leaders, visited Washington landmarks and attended small-group workshops. The evenings included a formal banquet din-

ner and dance, and a night at the theater. Friday was a special day when students had free time to explore the city.

Senior Natalie Karn said that the funniest part of the trip was when juniors Stephanie Gleitz and Nicole Tarpley got into a whipped cream fight at the banquet dinner.

The trip was meant to teach responsible participation in the democratic process through the civic education programs and publications on government citizenship. The students also got the opportunity to meet other teens from all around the country.

"This trip opened me up to a lot of new ideas and I got a lot of other students' opinions from other states," said junior Chuck Walls.

While the week was meant to be a learning experience, many of the students who attended said it was also a lot of fun and a great way to meet other teens in high school around the country.

By Amanda Menninger



**What Happens to Unused Snow Days?****We Want 'Em Back**

**I**magine waking up at six in the morning to the weather report: "No school today." Your head hits the pillow and you are out, not having to worry about school.

This has not been a reality for students this year. So, where do all of our snow days go? If students have their way, they will get out of school three days earlier at the end of the year.

Hazelwood West principal Mr. Steve Jurkins agrees. Mr. Jurkins said, "I hope they take the days off at the end of the year." When asked if the days would be taken off for the se-

niors also, Mr. Jurkins said that he thinks it would only be fair to take them off for everybody.

Considering the fact that the summers have gotten shorter and shorter over the years, most students are very excited about these three days.

Junior Tyke Parish said, "If we are not going to use them as snow days, we should get them back at the end of the year."

Hopefully we will have an answer from the Board of Education soon, but until then, students will cross their fingers and hope for a longer summer.

By Kelly Hendon

**News Briefs**

Aircraft enthusiasts have been gathering at the Aviation Club for almost two months. Junior president and founder Drew Lanham hopes the club, sponsored by Mrs. Gail Haynes, will help "get more people involved in aviation." Plans include visiting the control tower at Spirit of St. Louis Airport, museums, and hopefully the flight simulators at TWA.

By Doug Carr



Prom tickets will be on sale first and second hour April 1 only for juniors and seniors. Outsider forms are required and can be picked up in the Activities Office or from Mr. Tom Bennett in social studies. IDs are needed to purchase tickets which are \$27 for juniors and seniors and \$30 for outsiders. Prom will be at the Holiday Inn in WestPort on April 24.

By Amanda Menninger

**Central Daycare an Option for Teen Moms**

**G**oing to high school, keeping a job, and taking care of a baby is a lot to handle, but it's something some students have to do. Having to pick out a good, convenient daycare center doesn't make it easier.

This is what district officials were thinking about four years ago when a daycare center was opened inside Hazelwood Central High School.

At this point, there aren't children of students attending this daycare, although it is available to them. But as Assistant Director Penney Smith pointed out, it can't be easy for students to afford the hefty price tag of \$130 a week.

This is not a cheap daycare, but where is there a cheap daycare? Central's daycare costs \$130 per week for infants, but the cost goes down when the children get older. This is about the same price as Bottles, Blocks, & Books, across the street from West.

Central's daycare center

does have other people who bring their children in, but it is mainly teachers from Central and Hazelwood elementary schools. Daycare worker Chrissy Wanzen said no West teachers bring their children there. Some Hazelwood resi-

dents. When it is cold outside, they get to play in the small gym. The infants get out as well. They have a six-seater baby buggy to go strolling in the halls, but of course in between classes.

Students also get to play with the children. This is another ad-

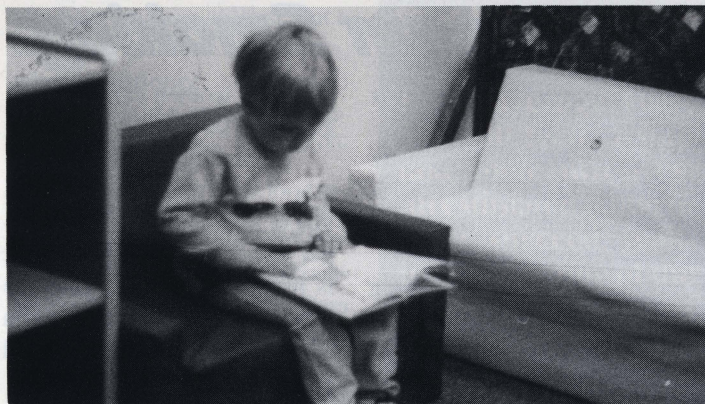
After their long days the kids have nap time from 1-3 p.m. Each child has his or her own cot with sheets and blankets from home. When they wake up, it is not too long before they get to go home. The class is pretty much gone by 5:15 p.m.

The daycare is open from 6:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. And it is closed every time the school is closed except for half days and teacher conference meetings.

They are prepared for medical episodes. If the child has a bad medical history, the parents fill out a form saying what could happen, the symptoms, and who to call. There is also the regular school nurse and a pediatric nurse available.

Even though no student parents are taking advantage of the district's daycare center at this point, this school resource sounds like an advantage for many people and it has left many people thinking how much of an advantage it would be if every school had a daycare.

By Brenda Dentshler



**Young Hawk...**A toddler keeps himself busy at Central's daycare center.

dents' children are there. They found out through the Hazelwood School District Newsletter about the center.

For the 24 children who attend (6 infants and 18 toddlers), it is fun. They have their own playground, which is fenced in away from the high school stu-

dents' children are there. They found out through the Hazelwood School District Newsletter about the center.

During holidays and on special occasions, they bake with the home economics classes.



# Pep Assemblies Get Bad Review



**WE HAVE SPIRIT, YES WE DO...** Senior cheerleader Lindsay Parrish looks on, as the sophomores go crazy during the Homecoming pep assembly. Recent pep assemblies have not generated as good a response. *Photo by Chris Bunney*

**P**ep assemblies are for coming together and showing spirit as a school, but there hasn't been much spirit displayed during the past few assemblies.

Many students complained about the winter pep assembly.

"I thought it was boring, except for doing a cartwheel with Mike Koch while they were announcing Turnabout court," said senior Megan McDonough.

But why is it boring to some

students? Pep assemblies should be fun. There should be activities that make students cheer.

Senior Pep Club president Jackie Mattingly said, "There's nothing to do for the winter pep assembly like during the Homecoming assembly when we had court, fall sports, a sexy legs contest, and other types of games involving fall sport players."

Senior Pep Club officer Katrina Rudar said, "We were too busy planning Turnabout;

being a Pep Club officer is harder than a lot of people think."

Activities Director Mr. Dennis Coffel assists the Pep Club officers while making decisions about the activities that are done during the assembly.

"I've been to other schools' pep assemblies and ours are over and above theirs," he said. "We have more class participation and more school spirit overall."

"I'm proud of our students; their enthusiasm and spirit is

great," said Mr. Coffel. He wants us to show as much spirit as possible, but also that the way we present it should be safe.

There was a lot of talk among students about why they couldn't stand up and dance.

"The reason I am so hard about standing up on the bleachers and dancing is that I don't want you to get hurt," said Mr. Coffel about this problem.

New ideas are being processed for the spring pep assembly, which will be held April 3.

"This assembly should be the bomb," said junior Monique Troupe.

It will be the first time Step has performed in a pep assembly. Senior Step captain Kim Daugherty said, "It should be different and I hope they enjoy it."

Also, the Prom Court and other activities will be presented. Hopefully, there will be a better reaction to this assembly.

*By Josha Sanders*

## Administration Must End Lunchtime Bathroom Smoking

**S**moking is a filthy and disgusting habit. Unfortunately many of the students in this school choose to smoke in the restroom in the Commons during lunch.

The bathroom is such a confined space, so the smoke just hovers there until it has a lot of time to dissipate. Because of this, the non-smoking population of West has to live with a cloud of smoke in the main bathrooms of the school.

In an effort to stop the smoking in the bathrooms, the administration installed smoke detectors there. When principal Mr. Larry Hughes was asked if he had ever heard a smoke de-

tector, he said "I have never heard one go off."

Senior Jeremiah Scholtz disagreed. He said, "The alarm goes off, but nobody ever goes in there."

So if the detector is going off but nothing's being done about it, why don't they just get rid of them? Better yet, why not wire the alarm to set off a silent signal that the students couldn't hear? Then the smokers wouldn't have the chance to put out their cigarettes and leave.

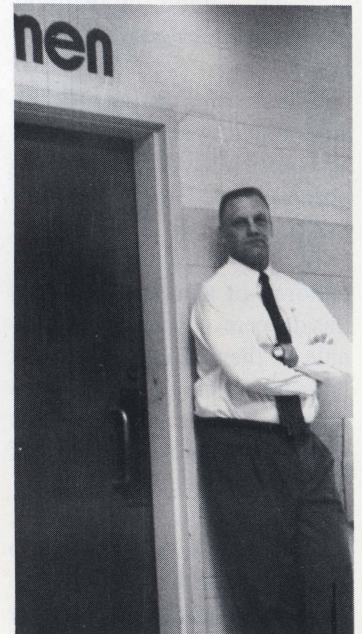
Another solution to the problem might be to post a male principal near the boys' bathroom instead of female counselors. When the smoke detector

goes off, women can't exactly go in and stop it.

Bringing cigarettes to school won't automatically get you in trouble. Building principal Mr. Steve Jurkins said, "It is just like a beeper; give the cigarettes to a principal and you can have them back at the end of the day."

Stop and think about it. Is smoking one cigarette worth five or ten days out-of-school suspension? Colleges look at your background. Do you really want them to discover you were suspended several times for smoking in the bathrooms at school?

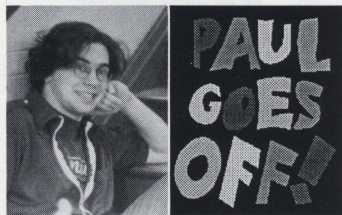
*By Phil Hammerschmidt*



**PRINCIPAL ON PATROL...** Mr. Blaine Henningsen stands outside a restroom in the Commons. Typically, principals are not seen near the bathrooms during lunch, so some students smoke freely.

*Photo by Margery Burdorf*





**T**his is my story about my opinions. And I have a LOTTA opinions. So LOOK OUT.

To start, Conan O'Brien is God's gift to insomniacs. Where else can I see a guy in a hot dog suit, a robot dressed like Shaft, and a brace-faced 14-year-old with a crush on Conan? Maybe it's just me, but what could be funnier than a 100-year-old man named "Oldie" doing an imitation of Patrick Swayze? But I digress. Let's move on.

I'm a real sucker for cartoons. They remind me of the 400-plus Saturday mornings when I sat in a Fruity Pebbles and Lucky Charms-induced sugar rush watching the Autobots defeat the Decepticons once again. Or maybe I'm still amazed by the fact that one cartoon is really thousands of hand-drawn pictures that each look sort of alike, but are each a little different.

I love the game of pool! I think about it way too much. For example, if I see two people standing in a corner, I say to myself, "Now if I hit that guy into that other guy at this angle and that corner was a pocket, then I would sink that other guy with a pretty decent leave on the girl over there." But I'm really no good at pool. Oh, well.

I would like to say Biz Markie would kick Puff Daddy's rear so bad that he would need three years of physical therapy just to be able to use a walker.

I should probably say that the opinions expressed in this article do not reflect the views of the Gazette or anyone else.

But in a perfect world they would.

By Paul Kingston

## True Love Waits...

# Sexual Promiscuity the Norm?

**Y**ou know what I'm tired of? I'm tired of seeing condom commercials on prime-time TV that focus on unmarried young people.

Why? Well I, along with lots of other teenagers, have decided to wait until marriage to have sex.

I'm also tired of older people referring to my generation as "Generation X," and thinking that most teenagers are irresponsible and sleep around.

While there is a high rate of teenagers having sex, I think much of this can be blamed on the media. Many TV shows and a lot of music portray sexual promiscuity as okay and make it

seem that it is normal to give your body to anyone.

Having sexual relationships outside of marriage can screw up your life in many ways. Everyone has heard about the physical consequences, but I want to talk about the spiritual and emotional consequences.

Sex outside of marriage causes spiritual deterioration and scarred emotions. When two people have sex, they give part of themselves away; a part of their heart that cannot be replaced.

Memories of people can stick with us forever. When I'm married, I don't want to bother with trying to block out memo-

ries of past sexual relationships. When I have sex, the only person I want to think about is my wife.

People who are sexually promiscuous are much more likely to commit adultery. If someone sleeps around as a teen, how are they going to resist sleeping around when they are married?

God made sex to be a gift between two married people who truly love each other. When not protected inside of marriage, the gift of sex is cheapened.

Because of all these reasons, I have decided to wait until marriage to have sex.

By John Wike

## Teen Suicides Are Tragic Endings To Bright Futures

**L**ife isn't always perfect. Everybody has, at some point, faced problems. But what drives a person to think that his or her only escape is suicide?

Granted, suicide has not really been an issue at West, but a surprising number of students, when questioned, admitted to contemplating suicide themselves or knowing somebody else who has.

So why would a person want to end his or her life? Human Behavior and Experimental Psychology teacher Ms. Pam Watson says that the presence of a crisis in somebody's life is likely to be a cause. Family problems, the loss of a loved one, social isolation, and even academics are also said to cause suicidal feelings.

According to guidance counselor Mrs. Linda Ponath, the instability of parents could also be a factor. "Poor parenting skills are the number one prob-

lem in education today," said Mrs. Ponath.

Ridicule and harassment can contribute to a negative self-image, which leads many people to feel unimportant and unloved.

### Did You Know?

**In an average year, 500,000 teens try to take their own lives. An estimated 6,000 of these succeed, making suicide one of the leading causes of death among people aged 15 to 24.**

One student said of her mistreatment by others, "It made me feel worthless. I really had low self-esteem. I wanted to die."

Senior Shelley Congleton said, "Some people, even if subconsciously, believe what

they're told and it affects them to their innermost being. People can be so screwed up so deep down inside it's unbelievable."

There are many warning signs that someone is contemplating suicide. Preoccupation with death, joking about suicide, tying up loose ends, and radical personality changes are common. Cheerfulness after a period of depression and alcohol or drug abuse may also indicate someone is suicidal.

If you or anybody you know is thinking about suicide, you should take it seriously. Hotlines such as the National Adolescent Suicide Hotline and Life Crisis are open 24 hours and help deal with everything from a bad day to serious problems.

Some teenagers kill themselves because they believe their life will never get better. It's tragic, because they will miss out on experiencing all the joy life has to offer in the future.

By Amanda Kamper



# Bad Dates Test Coping Skills

**Y**ou're running late, your hair is a mess, you can't find your favorite jeans, and suddenly your date appears at the door.

Have you ever had a bad date like this? These students have.

"I went out with this guy and he told me to dress nice, for a 'great night on the town,'" said senior Krista Stroud. "We ended up at McDonald's, then went to Incahoots, which I hate. I had to pay for my dinner, to get into Incahoots, and give him gas money."

Sometimes it's better to just send your date home without you, says freshman Michelle

Paschedag.

"My Homecoming date didn't want to dance, and he was feeling sick," she said. "So, halfway through the dance, my mom came and picked him up. I stayed at the dance."

"I feel like I'm going to be sick," isn't always just an excuse. Some people actually get sick.

Senior Amanda Claus explained, "I went to dinner with this guy, and I had a headache. So, he gave me what I thought was aspirin. I don't know what it was, but it made me sick. I ended up throwing up on him."

People try to use their own techniques to make a date fun, but

these don't always work.

"I went to the movies with this guy. He decided to pull the whole 'yawn-and-put-the-arm-around-her-shoulder' thing," said sophomore Sara Fraley. "Then, I was trying to watch the movie and he kept leaning over into my face, asking me if I liked him. I guess he thought if he put his head on my shoulder, I'd like him more."

It doesn't always seem like it, but good dates really are possible. Senior Scott McFarland has had one.

"I went with this girl to go see 'Air Force One,' then we went to Steak 'N' Shake. We topped it off by going to a party," he said.

Junior Rocky Aliberti had a good time when he went with his gal Jen to Old Navy, and then to see "Titanic."

Senior Elvin Slaughter had one particular date that sticks out in his mind.

"I went to Jenny's house at 10:30 a.m. one Saturday," he said. "I made her breakfast and we sat around until 2 p.m. Then, we went shopping, ate at Red Lobster, and met up with one of my friends and his gal. We all went to see 'Titanic.' Then, I took her home."

Junior Eli Haley had a memorable date. "I went to Prom with Katie (Koch) last year," he said. "I had so much fun."

A lot of people seem to have found the perfect solution to bad dates. They say just go out with a group of people. That way, if your date ends up being a complete bore, you will have plenty of fun, and exciting people to party with.

By Lindsay Brooks

## Resource Cop Does Disappearing Act

**A**s a new semester started and students got their new schedules, West got a new resource officer.

Officer Tim Benning replaced Officer Ray White at the beginning of the second semester. Officer White left because he was promoted to sergeant in the Hazelwood Police Department.

Officer Benning has been a police officer for 15 years and worked in Hazelwood for nine. Before coming to West, Officer Benning was a field training officer.

Officer Benning says he thinks that having a resource officer gives students a chance to talk to someone they trust.

Mr. Steve Jurkins said, "He's doing a great job in the transition. He's keeping up with everything."

Students had their own ideas about why Officer White left.

"He got fed up with us," said senior Justin Koester. "It's too boring here, so he went somewhere with more crime."



**The new Guy...**Officer Benning makes West his home. Photo by Margery Burgdorf

Junior Tanishia Palmer thought he left because, "there was too much stress over the students and he couldn't handle it anymore."

Many students, however, did know the real reason why there was a change.

Even with Officer White gone, people who have worked with Officer Benning say the school is still in good hands.

By Christy Zangilli

## Where To Now? Seniors Tell Their Plans

**T**ears being shed, hats being thrown, pictures being taken, proud parents standing by...these are signs of graduation. At the same time, seniors are thinking, "What now?"

While many seniors are not positive about their future, some are.

Senior Shara Puckett said that she is going to Lincoln Christian College, to major in missions. "I'm excited and can't wait," she said.

Like Shara, senior Steve Jakse has definite plans. He is going to Mizzou to major in Biology, and after college he is going to the Police Academy to become an FBI agent.

"I'm very excited about going to college," said senior Christy Tayloe. "I hope to attend St. Louis University to double

major in Spanish and Psychology. I want to be a chancellor or president of a university."

Some seniors have financial concerns, but senior Justin Koester has his taken care of his. His employer, Planet Tool, will be putting him through five years of school.

Sports are of interest to some students like senior Bruke Ayalew. He plans on playing soccer after high school. Bruke said he plans on playing for Missouri Baptist or Southern Illinois University, Edwardsville.

Although colleges are on the minds of some students, others are just happy to be graduating. Senior Kathy Gardiner said, "I'm worried about not getting out of here fast enough."

By Margaret Hendrix  
Keri Mahon





**Take a trip with your class...**Senior Ron Rivers gets involved in his marketing class by helping put together a display about their imaginary trip to Florida.

Photo by Margery Buxdorf

## Interesting Classes Earn High Marks from Teens

**P**icture yourself in your favorite class, the one you look forward to going to every day. You're doing something you enjoy and you're having fun doing it. For some people this is hard because not everyone even has a favorite class. Some only have classes they dislike.

A lot of students have favorite classes which they enjoy for interesting reasons.

Senior Patrick Finley enjoys his Advanced Composition class.

He said, "You get to analyze stuff and then think about it." He says that they read a selection and then they have to write about it.

Business classes like Marketing and Keyboarding seem to be a popular class among students.

Marketing is a favorite class of senior Jeff Chamberlain. He said, "Students are able to get involved in the class." He mentioned that they planned an imaginary trip to Florida by flying there and then taking a cruise to the Bahamas.

Some students like their classes for strange reasons.

Sophomore Jesse Draper said, "We have wonderful chairs," talking about the chairs which are in some of the business rooms.

Many students are serious about their classes and give very important reasons.

Junior Frank Doss enjoys his Independent Living class. He said, "It teaches us about everyday life." In this class you get to talk about different issues, cook, and do much more that concerns everyday life.

There are even students who like their class for the challenge. Sophomore Greg Acosta enjoys the challenge he gets from his Chemistry class.

There's always that class that some students just don't like.

Sophomore Harry Morris really had some interesting points about his dislike of his math class. He said, "Takes too much of the thought process." He mentioned that one problem takes up half a sheet of paper and that in math the work is just too hard.

And freshman Patrick Huelskamp said in his least favorite class, Government Law, he hates having to write out the questions and the answers.. He added the most important reason: "Homework's too difficult."

By Thacie Ross

By Brian Wichmann

## Victims of pranks say...

## Don't Get Mad—Get Even

**A**s you grow up, your siblings, and your friends do things to get you back or just plain embarrass you. Then you turn around and get revenge in a way they won't forget.

If you don't remember the cruel things that have been done to you, maybe these experiences will jog your memory.

When sophomore Justin Renaud was four years old and his brother, senior Josh Renaud, was six, Justin wanted to get revenge on Josh. Their mother had just made lemonade. To get his revenge, Justin urinated in a cup and gave it to Josh to drink. Until today his parents didn't know.

It's embarrassing when your family gets you. But what about your sisters' friends? When senior Bobby Parkin was in seventh grade, his sister Stacey was a senior. He was walking down the hall on Toga Day and his sisters' friends saw him and put him in the trash can.

There is a difference between friends doing something to humor you and doing something to you to humor others.

Senior Gina Aliberti found it humorous to circulate a petition

about senior Kathy Gardner and senior Eric McMullen and their PDA (Public Display Of Affection). Gina thought it was funny until Kathy humored herself by making Gina feel stupid when Kathy told her off.

Sometimes a joke can backfire on you, or the person you're playing a joke on will fail.

Seniors Belinda Machiewicz, Stacey Trunk, and Sarah Monroe took a ride on the moon cars at Six Flags. They decided to take turns driving. Belinda and Stacey had already driven so Sarah wanted to. They were switching when Stacey bumped her and Sarah fell out. They took off and Sarah had to run after them.

You'd think that students usually are the ones to play tricks. Not in this next experience. It was guidance counselor Mrs. Darlene Oliva's birthday. So fellow coun-



**Don't leave me!**Senior Sarah Monroe is left in the dust as her friends, Belinda and Stacey, drive off without her. This is a great reminder of the time the three rode on the moon cars at Six Flags.

Photo by Margery Buxdorf

selor Mrs. Nancy Higgins and assistant principal Mr. Larry Hughes wanted to surprise her. They teepeed her office, and Mr. Hughes got mud on his hands and put handprints on her wall. That turned out to be a really funny surprise to them too. Mrs. Oliva had just painted her walls a few days before, buying the paint with her own money. The hand prints came off, but so did some paint.

You always seem to think that playing a joke on someone or just embarrassing them will be loads of fun. But in some cases, the joke ends up on you.



# Hot Looks! Stuff You'll Be Wearing This Spring

GAP



**T**he weather is starting to turn warm. You open your closet to find you need to do some shopping. What's in style?

Strappy tank tops are definitely a hit again this spring.

The hot colors for this season are pastels.

Cargo pants in shades of khaki, olive, and denim are another thing you want to be seen in.

Floral prints and solid colors are the best skirts for this spring. Keep in mind that skirts should be below the ankle or above the knees, not in between.

Spring fashions for guys include khaki fringed shorts, shirts with stripes, and cargo pants. Good colors for guys are neon and primary colors.

Cool places to shop are Avalon, The Gap, Old Navy, Abercrombie & Fitch, Eddie Bauer, American Eagle Outfitters, and Express.

Girls will be wearing strappy sandals and mules with chunky heels in bright pastels. Places to go for the best shoes are Bakers, Wild Pair, and Payless. Just remember, do not unpack your white shoes until Easter.

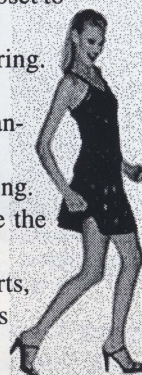
Guys' shoes for this season are Doc Marten sandals, and low top athletic shoes. Adidas and Nike are the top picks.

For accessories, hemp necklaces are great for guys and gals. Anklets are a definite must. Whatever you do, make it simple. Too much can make your whole outfit look tacky.

Sunny days will soon be here so you will definitely need some sunglasses. Sunglass Hut and Lenscrafters have cool shades if you want to pay big bucks, but the flea market at Pevley, MO can bring you some real bargains.

Whatever you decide to wear this spring make sure it is comfortable. With these extra tips you will be stylin' for the spring of '98.

By Susan Grossheim and Missy Skott



Eddie Bauer

adidas

## Fake Bakers Laugh Off UV Dangers

**T**is the season to be tan, all you fake-bakers, whether it's for Prom preparation, or you just don't want to be called Casper.

Many of the gals at West like to tan. Senior Katrina Rudar said, "I love it. It's so relaxing."

Tanners are taking a risk in those coffin-shaped beds filled with light. Most people already know tanning lays the groundwork for skin cancer. So why do they still put themselves at risk?

Senior Megan McDonough said, "I'm still young and not really worried about it."

"I don't think it's safe, but you only live once," said junior Todd Roe.

There are those who find the idea repulsive and can't believe that someone would pay money to fry their skin. Physiology teacher Mr. Ken Archibald thinks tanning's a lot like smoking. People know it causes cancer, and do it anyway.

Statistics say 80 percent of all tanning salon users are female. If you choose to be tan, save yourself and your skin by doing it in moderation.

By Lindsay Parrish

## Is St. Pat's For Pinching, Partying, or Family Heritage?

**H**ere in Amercia it seems as if St. Patrick's Day is considered more of a drinking, pinching, green fest. Some would say that it's more of a Hallmark Holiday than anything else. However, here at West there are some students and staff that take it further than green beer, cornbeef and cabbage.

"Ireland forever!" says speech teacher Mrs. Jeannie Seibel whose grandparents were from Ireland. Every year she shows her kids her grandfather's

citizenship papers and walks in downtown's St. Patty's parade. She considers the holiday as a celebration of her heritage.

Senior Jenny O'Laughlin, also spends the holiday with family. They all get together at her grandmother's house for corned beef and cabbage. They also walk in the parade.

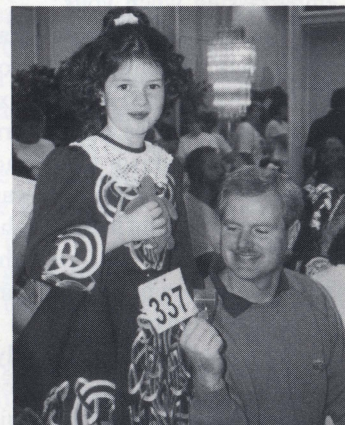
Spanish teacher Mr. Brian Joye spends his holiday trucking his daughter Joanna from one dance recital to the next. She dances for the Clarkson School of Irish Dance. With that going

on there is little time for celebration.

Mr. Robert McCallum says that in Ireland the holiday "revolves around families and parishes there." He goes to St. James Greater in St. Louis every year to celebrate.

"Having kissed the Blarney Stone, I have been given the gift of eloquence," says media teacher Mrs. Carol Weusthoff who is nearly 100 percent Irish. The famous Blarney stone is in a wall of the Blarney castle.

By Jenny Nowak and Jessie Rice



**Dancin' Queen...**Mr. Brian Joye shows his approval of his daughter Joanna's Irish costume.



# Dream Lovers

## Scientists See Dreams As Important Tools

**4** I had a dream that I was in the neighbors' house and it was pitch black inside. I was walking up the stairs and I saw a faint light that was flickering. I walked into the room to see my brother playing a video game. I got a close up vision of the TV where I saw this guy with red hair that was slicked back with a black turtle neck on. The man was standing up with a chair over his head and yelling. I walked out of the room and went into another bedroom and went inside the closet. I then turned on the light which appeared to be green. I looked around inside the closet and I saw this huge tube filled with little green army guys. Next to the tub there was a stack of boxes with weird symbols on them. Then I woke up."

Senior Dan Doerr remembers this bizarre dream. Even though most people don't remember such detail in their dreams, scientists say that everybody dreams. About half of the population doesn't recall their dreams. That is because they wake up during NREM -sleep (non-rapid-eye-movement sleep). These people wake themselves at a time when they are not dreaming, because they want to repress the fact that they dream, according to researchers.

Most dreams contain color, but take place in a dim half-light such as we experience under moonlight.

Drama teacher Mrs. Jeanne Seibel tells about a dream familiar to many performers. "I was late for a cue, but in my dream I never came out and they stopped the show. In my dream I never took the time to memorize my lines and when I got on stage I forgot what to say," she said.

"I have dreams of getting to class late and the kids are going crazy," said French teacher Mrs. Meridith Farley.

Dreams are valuable, just as thoughts and daydreams are. They help people think about important fears, wishes, worries, and concerns. Analyzing and studying dreams can reveal the different aspects of a person's way of thinking.

If you have trouble remembering your dreams, try to pay attention to your dream mind and nurture it. While you are awake, think about your dreams and while you are going to sleep, focus on dreaming. Make sure to keep a journal or a notebook by your bed, so that way if you remember your dream you can write down what you have experienced.

When you wake up, hold still for a few minutes, eyes closed, and focus on what you saw or heard. The movements of your body can disrupt your memory. Keep your eyes closed which will help focus attention on the dreaming world. Think of any images that stood out, and write them down. If you have to have an alarm to wake up, try using two alarm clocks; set one for the time you must wake and set the other 30 to 45 minutes earlier. Wake up to the first alarm, then doze and dream until the second one tells you it is time to wake up.

There are dreams that it seems everyone has in one form or another. The most common ones are dreams about being chased by a monster, being naked in public, falling or dropping through space, losing something precious, and finally, taking a big test without having studied.

By Becky Capstick

# HOROSCOPES

## ARIES MAR 21-APR 20 HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

You are totally energetic. You like to keep busy and you are willing to try anything. You can be a bit of a feisty fighter, but you're way too cool to hold a grudge. Kicking back to let your crush pursue you will pay off big time. You like your opposite to be tall, athletic, sweet, reliable, and trustworthy. Spring weather will motivate you to get serious about working out.

LUCKY DAYS: 5, 16, 34

## TAURUS APR 21-MAY 21

You're about to put the Energizer Bunny to shame. The major doll you once worshiped will annoy you, and you'll get over it. A schoolmate you've never spoken to before will become a tight bud. You'll start saving for a slammin' summer vacation.

LUCKY DAYS: 8, 19, 27

## GEMINI MAY 22-JUN 21

Your social life will make it hard for you to focus on your schoolwork. You'll be in a roller-coaster ride relationship. Patching things up with an old pal will bring you closer than ever. Your parents will reevaluate your curfew or allowance.

LUCKY DAYS: 1, 12, 29

## CANCER JUN 22-JUL 23

Scoring topnotch grades in your favorite class will pump you up. During a study session, a total babe will spill fantasies starring you. When a bud tells you her family might move, it'll be a bummer.

LUCKY DAYS: 3, 14, 24

## LEO JUL 24-AUG 23

A wave of creativity will roll in and you'll be stoked to ride it out. When your honey starts pressuring you to do things you're not into, you'll bail. Get revved!! You and your group will plan a rockin' day trip. You'll go through a serious dressing stage.

LUCKY DAYS: 5, 16, 23

## VIRGO AUG 24-SEP 23

Too many commitments will have you stressed out big-time. One long conversation with a certain shy possible love will provide your fresh crush. You won't be able to figure out why an old, trusted friend has

been dissing you. You'll ask everyone you know to help you score an awesome summer job.

LUCKY DAY: 9, 18, 28

## LIBRA SEP 24-OCT 23

Lying low will suit you this month. You'll be jazzed up by a new hottie, but you'll play it oh so cool. Set some pals up on a date and they'll click. Your empty piggy bank will leave you scrounging for some babysitting gigs.

LUCKY DAYS: 11, 20, 29

## SCORPIO OCT 24-NOV 22

Somebody should put a "Handle with Care" stamp on your forehead. A new babe will hang around you but not want to go out. When a pal does something sweet for you, you'll totally appreciate it. You'll hit jammin' parties to meet some cool honeys.

LUCKY DAYS: 4, 13, 23

## SAGITTARIUS NOV 23-DEC 21

Being playful will come easy this month. The certain "someone" in your life will force you to be super-generous. Some extra cash will come in handy.

LUCKY DAYS: 7, 15, 26

## CAPRICORN DEC 22-JAN 20

Nothing will get you down. Two sweethearts will be interested in you, but you won't mess with either of them. Your best bud will keep a secret from you, and you'll freak.

LUCKY DAYS: 2, 11, 28

## AQUARIUS JAN 21-FEB 19

Restless? You'll find something to get you going this month. When you see a classmate giving a presentation, you will think you've found your soulmate. Your crowd will rule a new hang out. Hit the books—your grades are slipping.

LUCKY DAYS: 12, 20, 29

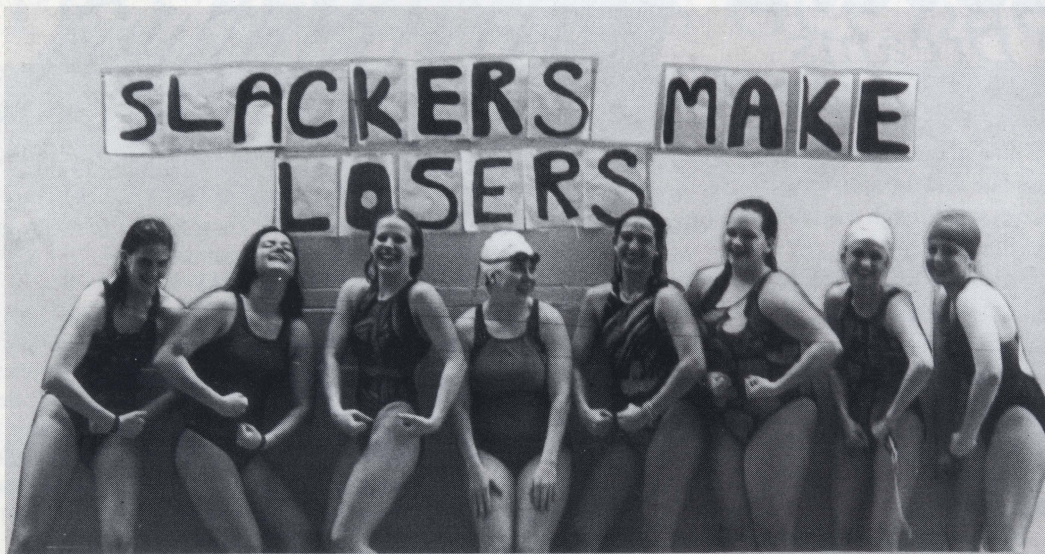
## PISCES FEB 20-MAR 20

Partying will be your priority. The one you've fantasized about all year will ask you out. A friend will give you much needed advice. You'll blow a huge cash wad shopping at the mall.

LUCKY DAYS: 3, 14, 23

By Jekia Sanders





**W**alking into the pool now a days hanging up are signs like "Pain is Positive" and "Slackers are Losers". What are these new signs for?

The Girl's Swim Team has a new coach this year, Mr. Robert Cummings. He is a Spanish teacher from Hazelwood Central who believes in togetherness as a team. "Were all one big family, everything reflects on the team, from the number one swimmer to the last." Cummings said He swam in San Diego for 5 years

on a USA team. This is his first year ever coaching. freshman Nicki Whobrey said, "He works us hard, but he just wants to get us into shape."

The swimmers have been practicing hard this year. They have been running laps, doing push ups and sit ups. junior Crystal Bennettsaid, "The running is tiring, and the sprinting isn't fun. By the time practice is over you want have to crawl out of the pool.."

This year the girls are looking forward to meeting their ri-

vals at Haz. Central, and Conference. Junior Morgan Gittus said, "We have a good chance of beating Central, and I think we'll be in the top two at Conference."

Junior Britt Phillips is diving again this year. New divers this year are senior Jessie Schrader, and freshman Cat Zubriggin.

Coach Cummings says he feels like he has "good quality swimmers" this year and that they have a good chance of winning conference.

By Hannah Wichmann

**Flexing Their Muscles...** Returning swimmers this year are (from right to left) senior Gina Ewald, senior Tammy Miller, junior Britt Phillips, senior Lisa Walters, junior Michelle Lacy, junior Hannah Wichmann, junior Crystal Bennett, and junior Morgan Gittus.

Photo by Margery Bergdorf

## Netters Look To Improve On Success

**P**ractice began this season with the boys tennis team not looking for a few good men. Rather, they were looking for a few warm days.

New faces on the court include Head Coach Joe DeLuca and Assistant Coach Cheryl Morrison. They hope to build from last year's 8-5 record by combining tennis experience and a love for the game.

"We're going to be a totally different team," said sophomore Justin Renaud. "We were three games over .500 last year. We can definitely improve that if everybody works hard. We could be a force to be reckoned with."

By Doug Carr

## Ambush Work Hard to Win and Build Fan Support

**T**he team with the best chance to bring the next national championship to St. Louis is not the Blues or the Cardinals. It's the Ambush, St. Louis' pro soccer team.

The Ambush have the best record in the National Professional Soccer League with 24 wins, and 10 losses. The second place team is 7 games back with only 6 games to play in the regular season.

With a 10-1 start, the Ambush haven't let up. They are first in power play percentage, third overall in average attendance with about 8,000 fans coming out

each game, and they have the best goalkeeper in the league in Jamie Swanner.

However, many injuries to key players like Jeff Hundelt, Mark Moser, and Joel Shanker have made it harder to keep up the pace.

In addition to winning the 1994-95 NPSL Championship, the Ambush has captured two National Division titles, advanced to the Division Finals each season and continually increased attendance, ticket sales, and summer camps.

The Ambush are trying hard to get more teens and kids to

come out and watch them play. They give out tickets to students who get a 3.0 or higher in area high schools, and dance teams, like the West Pridettes, get invited to come and dance at half-time. Every home game, teams are invited to play at the Kiel before the game and at halftime. The Ambush want to give confidence and encouragement to the future soccer players of the area.

"We've got to draw the kids out to the games," said Ambush player Curtis Stelzer in a recent Gazette interview. "Without them nobody would come out."

So if they are doing so well,

why aren't more people coming out to their games?

"Most teenagers think they are too cool for Ambush games," Stelzer said.

Many people think the reason is because the Ambush don't spend much money on advertising and they don't get much TV coverage, so they go unrecognized. But the team has two exciting games coming up on March 27 at 7:35 p.m. and on March 29 at 5:35 p.m.

Stelzer says he is really like to see some West Wildcats there supporting him and the team.

By Mike Hoffman



# Fast Cats Gear Up For Track

**"A**nybody can make it," senior Denard Barbee said as track tryouts were starting. But ambition and stamina are important, and that's what the West speedsters have.

Athletes and coaches agree that the weather can definitely

make it easier on them. Last year it was still under 30 degrees when tryouts came around.

Coach Larry Clickner said "It's harder to reach full potential in bad weather."

Boys track was third in state relays and sixth in the triple jump

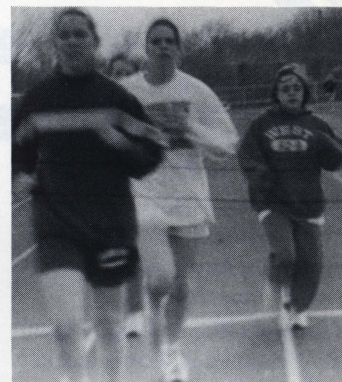
last year. The team will probably be strong in the 4 x 1, 4 x 2, 4 x 4, 4 x 8, the mile, and high jump but may be weak in the triple jump. Lance Catching was the star triple jumper last year but has to sit out this year because of football injuries.

Sophomore Chris Williams said that he's honored to be on varsity. He also thinks they did great last year and hopes to repeat that success.

Senior Josh Anyon started the sport four years ago to get in shape for soccer, but ended up liking it.

The first meet is March 24 here against Central and Pattonville.

By Shelly Paxton



**Heading for Home...** Freshman Portia Lane and junior Tracy Geders sprint to the finish line at spring track practice.

Photo by Margery Boudria

## Expectations High For Roller Hockey

**W**est takes another new turn as they introduce the new roller hockey team this year. The team started tryouts on February 15 and made the last cuts March 8. Around 40 players showed up to Spinning Wheels roller rink to the early morning tryouts. Many player will be disappointed as only 13 skaters and 2 goalies will be on the team.

The team which will include many good players are expecting a winning season. Junior Jason Bower said "With the amount of talent we have we should end up finishing near the

top of the league."

The top of the league is where the teams goal is. Junior Josh Geno said "With our coach, Todd Keoster who is highly liked by the players, we should be mentally prepared to play."

By Terry Brennan  
and Tony Reis

## Familiar Faces Boost Ladies' Soccer Hopes

**R**eturning almost all of last year's team, the Girls Varsity Soccer Team will be looking forward to a successful season on the field.

The only major loss from last year, goalie Melissa Klein, will be missed, but junior Page Robinson and freshman newcomer Lynda Kozlowski will be fighting for the position to fill the void.

The Lady Cats feel the outlook for the season is good, junior Lisa Kozlowski said. "We have the skills to win and if we play well as a team we should be the team to beat."

Senior captain Stacy Hanneken thinks that defense will be a strong point for this year's success.

A team the Cats will be looking out for are the Hazelwood Central Hawks. Last year the Cats lost to the Central team 1-0 at Central's home field. Now the

Cats are out for revenge and will playing at home this year.

The team will be looking to improve last year's record of 8-5-2.

"I think we are going to do well if there is no slacking," said Kozlowski about this year's team.

Hanneken said, "If we keep a good attitude and play our best, we will have a good season."

The team is welcoming three new players in freshmen Jacki Thomann, Kelli Beck, and Adriana Burgos.

Senior captain Megan McDonough said, "We have the skills and should play well together."

With only four or five games here, the team will be looking for a lot of support at home. The Lady Cats will open the season against Aquinas on March 24 at home at 4 p.m.

By Joe Curtis

## Golf Season To Challenge New Coach

**T**he Varsity Golf team has a big challenge on their hands. After losing four seniors, a lot of new faces will have to come up big for the team.

The only golfer to remain on the team that went to state last year is senior Terry Brennan. There also is a change in coaches this year. Coach Keith Herring will take over Coach Dan Boudria's spot as head coach.

"I am very excited and I am looking forward to a great year," said Coach Herring. He believes they should be within the top three in their conference and thinks Central should be the top threat.

"We have a pretty good short game but now that we lost all our big guys, we need to work on our driving," said junior Mike Gassel.

Those returning to the team are senior Terry Brennan, junior Tim Zeman, junior Mike Gassel, junior Matt Henderson, junior Joe Thomann, and junior Drew Lanham. The four new members of the team are freshman Matt Brauss, junior Rocky Aliberti, freshman Eric Tucker, and freshman Ryan Tichenor.



**The Chase is On...** Junior Lisa "Koz" Kozlowski gets in shape for girls soccer by playing in the Community Service Club's fundraiser.

Photo by Jason Mages



## TV Ads Feature Local Talents

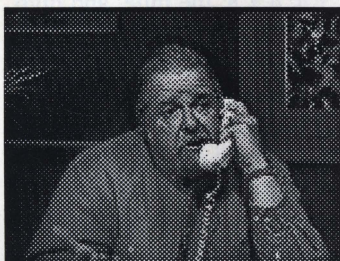
**H**ey, is that Tom Cruise and Sondra Bullock? Not quite, but a few people attending West are on their way to stardom.

Seniors Megan Favazza and Josh Renaud and drama teacher Mr. Bob Fowler have all starred in commercials. They got their big chance because one of Mr. Fowler's former students owns a FP Mobile Television.

All three said that the experience was fun. Josh added, "Actually filming the commercial was boring but the overall experience was great."

Megan said, "It was awesome. Between every take someone was coming up to me and fixing my hair or retouching my makeup. Never before in my life had I been pampered so much."

Josh and Megan spent six hours in the studio to make two



**OLD GEEZER...**Mr. Bob Fowler plays a man who grows old waiting for someone to take his call in a local commercial.

30-second commercials.

Mr. Fowler says that it was pretty easy. "The only hard part is saying the same line 25 different ways." His makeup took about an hour as he transformed into an old man.

Megan, Josh and Mr. Fowler all agreed getting to meet a lot of people and receiving a paycheck made it all worthwhile.

By Rachel Traversey

## Athletes Earn Way To College Teams

**N**ot many high school athletes will go on to compete on the college level, but several West athletes have caught the eye of college recruiters.

Jason Deckelbaum, with a partial baseball scholarship to Central Missouri State, hopes to make an impact as an outfielder, and with his bat. "It's not going to be easy with two returning All Americans, but it will make me work harder," he said.

Dan Fleck, who earned a partial football scholarship to Southeast Missouri State, said, "The college is a lot smaller than what I expected, but the people are cool."

Terry Brennan with a partial scholarship for golf at Lindenwood University, can't

wait to tee up with college calibre players. Dana Hackworth will be joining Brennan with a partial soccer scholarship to Lindenwood.

Karen Uttech will be attending Central Methodist with a combination volleyball/academic scholarship.

Levon Davis has a partial basketball scholarship to William Jewell and plans to start in the back court. "It's a small college but the people there are nice," Davis said.

Other West scholarship hopefuls are Brooke Ayalew and Ricky Decaro for soccer at SIU Edwardville, and Denard Barbee, Delvin Walls, and Orlando Arthur for football.

By Denard Barbee  
and Delvin Walls

## The West Gazette

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## Readers Have Their Say

The Gazette welcomes letters to the editor and will print them as space allows. Letters must be signed, but names will be withheld on request. Put your letters in the Letters to the Editor box across from the attendance office.

**T**his is in response to the article published February 28 in the Hazelwood West newspaper:

The cafeteria staff currently serving at West do NOT decide what food to serve, nor do we decide quantities or brands. All these decisions are made at the administrative level of food service. The food is delivered to us; we prepare and serve it.

Anywhere from 1100-1400 lunches are served each day. It is not an easy job getting this much food prepared. We come to work in the mornings and prepare everything that can be, while having to cook during the whole lunch time to keep everyone fed. There is no possible way to serve everything "fresh," as you would be waiting a very long time to get a fresh piece of pizza, fresh fries, or piping hot chicken rings. We are not able to get this done in the amount of time we are given. We do everything possible to serve pleasing lunches. Sometimes things aren't perfect. Maybe everyone should spend a day or two

helping cook and serve school lunches.

If your pretzel is not to your liking, have you tried asking for a new one? Or if your pizza is cold, ask for another piece. When we have leftovers, there is usually an item that is new for that day. We have no control over fat content; that is regulated by the government. The government is also apparently more concerned about nutrition than they are about taste. Some of our supplies are given to us by the government and we cannot make the "tast" of the meats, sauce or other things sent to us by them taste better.

The next time you eat lunch, try to look at it from our side. It's hard work serving so many students. We do our best with what we are supplied with.

Thank you,

Hazelwood West Cafeteria Staff

Barbara Gray, Linda Jost, Patti Rowland, Mary Ann Hendel, Sondra Needham, Judi Clark, Robin Callahan, Violet Cavaness, Karen R. Devine, Sandy O Toole, Mary Smith, Joellen Puett, manager